

Table 1.

Alternative Poverty Estimates Based on National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Recommendations Using Revised Tax Model: 2001 and 2002

(Numbers in thousands, poverty rates in percentages)

Alternative NAS-based method	2001				2002				Change (2002 less 2001) ¹			
	Number below poverty level		Poverty rate		Number below poverty level		Poverty rate		Number below poverty level		Poverty rate	
	Revised	Published	Revised	Published	Revised	Published	Revised	Published	Revised	Published	Revised	Published
Official measure.....	32,907	32,907	11.7	11.7	34,570	34,570	12.1	12.1	*1,663	*1,663	*0.4	*0.4
Alternative Measures Based on After-Tax Income												
No Geographic Adjustment of Thresholds												
MSI-NGA (Medical costs alternative 1)	34,547	34,790	12.3	12.4	35,060	35,244	12.3	12.4	513	454	-	-
MIT-NGA (Medical costs alternative 2)	35,692	36,001	12.7	12.8	36,796	37,013	12.9	13.0	*1,104	*1,012	0.2	0.2
CMB-NGA (Medical costs alternative 3)	36,290	36,597	12.9	13.0	36,929	37,135	12.9	13.0	639	538	-	-
Geographic Adjustment of Thresholds												
MSI-GA (Medical costs alternative 1)	34,295	34,694	12.2	12.3	34,760	35,036	12.2	12.3	465	342	-	-
MIT-GA (Medical costs alternative 2)	35,236	35,824	12.5	12.7	36,089	36,481	12.6	12.8	*853	657	0.1	0.1
CMB-GA (Medical costs alternative 3)	35,997	36,442	12.8	12.9	36,570	36,896	12.8	12.9	573	454	-	-

-Represents zero.

*Statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

¹Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Notes: While the alternative measures differ among one another in their computation of medical expenses and geographic variations in costs, they are similar in their scaling of thresholds by family size and their treatment of noncash benefits and child care and work-related expenses. See text and footnotes for additional information and references.

For an explanation of the measures, see P60-222 and Short (2001).

All measures are updated for inflation with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

See www.census.gov/poverty/povmeas/report.htm for measures updated using growth in median expenditures.

MSI means medical out-of-pocket expenses (MOOP) subtracted from income

MIT means MOOP included in the thresholds

CMB means combined methods

NGA means no geographic adjustment for housing costs

GA means geographic adjustment for housing costs

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2002 and 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.